



March 16, 2009

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Representative James Spallone
Legislative Office Building
Room 2202
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Office of the Healthcare Advocate

Dear Mr. Spallone:

This letter is written in response to the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Office of the Healthcare Advocate. I am strongly opposed to any attempt to eliminate the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, as it is a vital resource for Connecticut consumers in defending themselves against wrongful denials by health insurance companies.

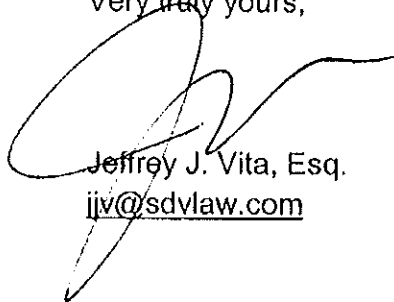
I am a partner in a Hamden-based law firm which represents policyholders of all kinds in claims against their insurance companies. We have repeatedly represented individuals who have been denied health insurance by their insurers for a variety of reasons. Often, these denials are without merit.

Our office has worked with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate on several occasions to assist these consumers in obtaining the medical insurance and benefits they deserve, and for which they paid premiums. Many times, these individuals do not have the financial resources to fight with their insurers, who are well funded and armed with both in-house and outside legal counsel. Without the professional assistance offered by the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, many of these consumers would not be able to pursue the insurance coverage to which they are entitled.

In those instances where my firm has worked closely with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, we have found their representatives to be knowledgeable, professional, and dedicated to assisting Connecticut consumers in these matters. As a result, I have the utmost respect for the Office of the Healthcare Advocate and its mission. Therefore, I strongly oppose any attempt to eliminate the Office of the Healthcare Advocate.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, or need specific examples of our involvement with the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey J. Vita', is written over the typed name and email address.

Jeffrey J. Vita, Esq.

jjv@sdvlaw.com

cc: Maureen Smith
Victoria Veltri, Esq.
Office of the Healthcare Advocate
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